

Claims

1. An image pickup apparatus provided with a solid state image pickup device and a data compression means for
5 compressing a video signal acquired by said solid state image pickup device, characterized in that said image pickup apparatus comprises:

a characteristic value calculation means for extracting a characteristic value used for predicting an amount of codes
10 to be generated at a time of compressing a video signal acquired by said solid state image pickup device from the video signal;
and

a compression coefficient control means for controlling a compression coefficient which is used by said data
15 compression means based on the characteristic value acquired by said characteristic value calculation means, said compression coefficient control means using the characteristic value acquired by said characteristic value calculation means at a time of allowing users to check an image
20 to be picked-up before picking up the image, and determining the compression coefficient at a time of picking up an image.

2. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that said characteristic value calculation
25 means divides the picked-up image into two or more areas, calculates a characteristic value for each of the two or more areas in addition to the characteristic value acquired from the whole of the picked-up image, and outputs the largest one of the characteristic values acquired for the two or more areas,
30 as a local maximum characteristic value, and said compression

coefficient control means controls the compression coefficient which is used by said data compression means based on the two characteristic values acquired by said characteristic value calculation means.

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3. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that said characteristic value calculation means stores characteristic values acquired for two or more frames, and makes a correction to a characteristic value which
10 said characteristic value calculation means will output according to a change in the characteristic values acquired for the two or more frames.

4. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1,
15 characterized in that said compression coefficient control means rewrites information about on a list of data or coefficients using data transmitted thereto by using communications with external equipment.

20 5. An image pickup method of picking up an image using a solid state image pickup device, and performing image compression processing on the picked-up image, and recording the compressed image in a recording medium, characterized in that said method comprising:

25 a characteristic value calculation step for extracting a characteristic value used for predicting an amount of codes to be generated at a time of compressing a video signal acquired by said solid state image pickup device from the video signal;

a compression coefficient control step for controlling
30 a compression coefficient which is used for data compression

based on the characteristic value acquired in said characteristic value calculation step; and

a data compression step for compressing the video signal acquired by said solid state image pickup device using the
5 compression coefficient acquired in said compression coefficient control step, said compression coefficient control step including steps of using the characteristic value acquired by said characteristic value calculation means at a time of allowing users to check an image to be picked-up before
10 picking up the image, and determining the compression coefficient at a time of picking up an image.